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Station number of document : Bern-OSS-Int-38 (Part of folder)
Date of document : 30 March 44
Title of document : Letter--Berne Archambault
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Excerpt of pertinent information :

In order to offset the presence of Marcel Deat in the Vichy Cabinet-Incidentally it is understood that he will attend meetings only when they are held in Paris, Joseph DARNAND and Philippe Henriot are feverishly active. The purpose ascribed to the Minister for the maintenance of order and the Minister for Labor Information is to prove to the Germans that they are as wholehearted "collaborationists" as the new Minister for Labor whose advent to office caused much flutter in the Vichy Decree.

The question in collaborationist France now is who will rule the roost pending military developments. It would be purely academic were it not for the fact that DARNAND disposes of summary courts and can send many more patriots before firing squads before a landing is made. Otherwise the situation is simple: Petain continues a sit-down strike which remains platonic since he is bereft of all authority. Pierre Laval has little more beyond the prerogative of signing laws and decrees presented to him with full knowledge that if he refused he would be removed. Apart from DARNAND, Henriot and Deat the rest of the Cabinet is colorless. And these are fighting mercilessly behind the scenes. For the moment at least it would seem that Henriot and DARNAND have joined the panegyric of the latter's militia and it exploits against the resistance movement. As a matter of fact there is reason to believe that the militia has failed utterly and that operations have now been taken in hand by the Germans. But Henriot is a pastmaster in presenting weak cases in the most glowing colors.

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THE ABOVE EXTRACT WAS TAKEN VERBATIM FROM THE DOCUMENT.

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TO THE SUBJECT IN THIS DOCUMENT.

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